

In the Claims:

1-49. Cancelled.

50. (Currently amended) An article at least partially coated comprising:
at least one surface of said article at least partially coated with a ~~substantially homogeneous~~ superabsorbent water-resistant polyacrylate polymer coating comprising:

- (i) at least one non-toxic, water-soluble superabsorbent anionic polyacrylate polymer precursor in aqueous solution, which cures, when the coating is applied to said at least one surface;
- (ii) a non-particulate viscosity-modifying agent in the form of a solution or dispersion;
- (iii) a lubricant; and
- (iv) a film forming binder in aqueous solution compatible with the water-absorbing polyacrylate polymer and the non-particulate viscosity-modifying agent, said film forming binder selected from the group consisting of polyesters, polyurethanes, epoxies, ~~latex~~ and mixtures thereof,

said superabsorbent, water-resistant polyacrylate polymer coating absorbing water when it is wetted and desorbing water when it is dried without loss of polyacrylate polymer.

51. Cancelled.

52. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said article is selected from the group of articles consisting of tapes, mats, fabrics, rovings, fibrous strands, laminates, sheets, rods and cables.

53. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said article is selected from the group of articles consisting of molded articles, woven fabrics, scrims, wood and paper products, and construction materials.

54. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said article comprises a fibrous reinforcing material.

55. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 54 wherein said fibrous reinforcing material is selected from the group of reinforcing fibers consisting of glass fibers, polymer fibers, carbon fibers, natural fibers, and blends thereof.

56. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 55 wherein said reinforcing fibers comprise polymer fibers selected from the group consisting of aramid fibers, nylon fibers, Kevlar fibers, polyester fibers, polyethylene fibers, polypropylene fibers, and combinations thereof.

57. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 56 wherein said polymer fibers comprise aramid fibers.

58. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating is corrosion resistant.

59. Cancelled.

60. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating absorbs water when immersed in an aqueous environment and desorbs said water when said coating is dried.

61. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating absorbs up to about 400 times its initial dry weight in water when immersed in an aqueous environment and desorbs said water when said coating is dried.

62. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating has a swell rate of from about 50 grams of deionized water per gram of dry coating to about 340 grams of deionized water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

63. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating has a swell rate of from about 33 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating to about 66 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

64. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 63 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating has a swell rate of about 126 grams of water per gram of dry coating and about 50 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

65. (Currently amended) ~~The article according to claim 50 An article at least partially coated comprising:~~

at least one surface of said article at least partially coated with a superabsorbent water-resistant polyacrylate polymer coating comprising:

(i) at least one water-soluble superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor in aqueous solution, which cures, when the coating is applied to said at least one surface;

(ii) a non-particulate viscosity-modifying agent in the form of a solution or dispersion, wherein said viscosity-modifying agent is selected from the group of viscosity-modifying agents consisting of alkyl celluloses, acrylamide polymers and mixtures thereof;

(iii) a lubricant; and

(iv) a film forming binder in aqueous solution compatible with the water-absorbing polyacrylate polymer and the non-particulate viscosity-modifying agent, said film forming binder selected from the group consisting of polyesters, polyurethanes, epoxies, and mixtures thereof,

said superabsorbent, water-resistant polyacrylate polymer coating absorbing water when it is wetted and desorbing water when it is dried without loss of polyacrylate polymer.

66. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said viscosity-modifying agent is an acrylamide polymer.

67. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating further comprising a wetting agent.

68. (Currently amended) The article according to claim 50 wherein said water-soluble superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor is selected from the group of ~~anionic salt forms of the polymer precursor consisting of anionic alkali salt polymer precursors and alkali metal salt polymer precursors consisting of anionic alkali salts and alkali metal salts of a superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer.~~

69. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating covers an entire surface of the article.

70. (Currently amended) An article at least partially coated with an aqueous coating composition comprising:

a superabsorbent polymer precursor selected from the group consisting of anionic alkali salts and alkali metal salts of a superabsorbent polymer;

a non-particulate viscosity-modifying agent selected from the group consisting of alkyl celluloses, acrylamide polymers and mixtures thereof; and

a binder selected from the group consisting of polyesters, polyurethanes, epoxies, ~~latex~~ and mixtures thereof.

71. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 70, wherein the superabsorbent polymer precursor is a polyacrylate.

72. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 70, wherein the viscosity-modifying agent is a polyacrylamide.

73. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 70, wherein the binder is a film-forming polyurethane.

74. (New) The article of claim 50 wherein the film forming binder in aqueous solution includes a polymer latex selected from the group consisting of an acrylic latex, a styrene butadiene latex and mixtures thereof.

75. (New) The article of claim 70 wherein the film forming binder in aqueous solution includes a polymer latex selected from the group consisting of an acrylic latex, a styrene butadiene latex and mixtures thereof.